

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

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APPLICANT : MORINAGA & CO LTD;

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TITLE : PREPARATION OF GRANULAR FREEZE DRIED COFFEE HAVING SHAPE OF COFFEE BEAN

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To prepare granular freeze-dried coffee which can be served by dissolving as it is in hot water or cold water without further crushing and sieving, by freezing coffee extract liquid in a casting mold having the shape of a coffee bean, and drying the frozen extract under reduced pressure.

CONSTITUTION: A flat plate is provided with a number of cavities each having the shape of a coffee bean. A coffee extract liquid is poured into the cavities, and frozen therein to obtain pellets of frozen coffee having the shape of coffee beans. The freezing may be performed by cooling with a refrigerator, liquid nitrogen, dry ice, etc. The molds are placed in a cooling chamber and frozen batchwise, or a belt having a number of cavities or a belt or conveyor attached with the molds are passed through a cooling chamber or a cooling tunnel to effect the continuous freezing. The frozen coffee pellets having the shape of coffee beans are dried under reduced pressure in the mold or after releasing from the mold, to obtain the freeze-dried coffee pellets having the shape of coffee beans.

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